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Spaccia Sentenced to Prison

Bell's former assistant chief administrative officer, Pier' Angela Spaccia, was sentenced today to 11 years, eight months in state prison for her role in a massive public corruption scheme to boost her pay and that of her boss, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy also ordered Spaccia, 55, to pay more than \$8.2 million in restitution to the City of Bell.

The case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Max Huntsman and Sean Hassett with the Public Integrity Division.

"The residents of Bell depended and relied upon defendant Spaccia to do her job honestly and with integrity. Defendant Spaccia wholly abandoned her duty to the people of Bell and acted only in furtherance of her own corrupt and selfish motives," Hassett wrote in a sentencing memorandum.

At the height of the scandal, Spaccia and her boss Robert Rizzo, illegally boosted their salaries by writing their own employment contracts. Spaccia's salary in Bell went from \$102,310 a year when she was hired in July 2003 to \$376,000 a year in 2008.

Spaccia also was convicted of taking more than \$230,000 in loans without council approval, removing public documents. Spaccia and Rizzo also secretly created their own retirement plans, giving them more than \$8 million each in pensions. In all, a jury in December found her guilty of 11 felony counts.

The District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation launched an investigation in 2010 and Rizzo, Spaccia and six Bell council members were charged later that same year.

Rizzo, who pleaded no contest to all 69 counts in October, is scheduled to be sentenced April 16 in the same courtroom. At the time of his plea, Kennedy said she would sentence Rizzo to a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 12 years in state prison.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.